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Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta

Traitors of the 'Me' Generation

The sordid profession of betraying one's country has lost its ideological appeal. No longer do American traitors sell out to the enemy, it seems, because of misguided idealism.

Now it's strictly cash on the barrel-head. The "Me" generation of traitors has arrived. The Soviets must pay for what they get. This is no problem for the cynics in the Kremlin.

In fact, the Soviets abandoned communist commitment as their chief recruiting device long ago. The KGB laid other traps: money for the greedy, blackmail for the vulnerable.

A key CIA source with access to the counterintelligence division's files told us that in just the last four months, the Soviets have been making brazenly direct approaches to likely traitors, offering big bucks up front. That could mean the hemorrhaging of U.S. military and intelligence secrets to the Soviet bloc will probably continue to increase. "It

used to be if you got five grand out of the Soviets, you'd be doing well," the CIA source said. "Now they're giving out 20, 30, 50 and even 75 thousand dollars like it's nothing."

And they're getting "incredible information" in return, he said. His observation, based on several espionage cases that haven't yet been made public, was a capsule version of conclusions reached by the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The DIA study, conducted at the request of Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), provided profiles of 54 suspected or convicted traitors who have been involved in "significant" espionage cases since World War II. Our associate Tony Capaccio has obtained a copy of the study. It analyzes what secrets the traitors compromised by their sellout and whether they were recruited or volunteered to betray their country. It also speculates on the crucial question of their motivation.

Taking just the 18 who were exposed in the last decade, one thing that fairly leaps off the pages is the fact that only three of these traitors were actively recruited. The rest volunteered.

Five of the 18 were CIA employees; three served in the Air Force; three were in the Navy; and one each were in the Army, Defense Intelligence Agency and U.S. Information Service. The remaining four either worked for or were connected with contractors engaged in classified work.

Here are some of the more interesting traitors profiled in the DIA study.

■ William Peter Kampiles: He is "an egocentric individual who was the only child of a doting mother whose husband died when William was young," his DIA profile notes. He was recruited by the CIA in college and joined the agency in March 1977, hoping to be a spy in the Operations Directorate.

Instead, he was assigned to the Watch Center, which he found boring. Requests for transfer were rejected, so Kampiles quit after seven months. But before he left, he "took from the Watch Center a top secret manual which gave the precise workings of the KH-11 reconnaissance satellite."

Kampiles tried to peddle the manual to the Soviet Embassy in Athens for \$10,000, but the Soviets paid only \$3,000 to learn the full capability of our best spy satellite at the time.

■ William Holden Bell. His case was "a classic example of hostile espionage," the DIA profile observes. "Not a volunteer for espionage, Bell had been carefully assessed, cultivated and recruited into the role of spy. Having lost a son to whom he was very close, gone through a divorce and remarriage, and faced with mounting debts, Bell was ripe for recruitment."

Bell worked for Hughes Aircraft. A neighbor was a Polish spy supposedly

employed by Polamco, a Polish import-export firm. He befriended Bell, listened to his troubles and paid him \$4,000 for names of possible customers for Polamco machinery. When their apartment building went condo and Bell couldn't afford the \$12,000 down payment, the Pole provided it. Bell was hooked. For the next two years he turned over classified documents on radar systems, missiles and air defense.

■ James Harper Jr. He received a total of \$250,000 for giving classified documents to Polish intelligence. He got the material from his wife, who worked for a company that had access to classified data on U.S. nuclear missiles.

At his sentencing in May 1984, the prosecution described Harper as "a sociopath with no sense of honor or morality." The judge said he was "a traitor for greed and money," and sentenced him to life in prison.

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